

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus characterized by comprising:

a first light source that emits light in a visible region;

a second light source that emits light in an invisible region;

a light guide plate which has said first and second light sources arranged at end faces, and has a first light guide pattern for guiding light emitted by said first light source to an entire light-emitting surface and a second light guide pattern for guiding light emitted by said second light source to the entire light-emitting surface; and

~~reading device~~ a reading device that converts light from an original illuminated by light which is emitted by said first or second light source and guided by said light guide plate into an image signal.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that defect information present on an optical path extending from said light guide plate to a solid-state image sensing element is read on the basis of the image signal obtained when the light from the original illuminated by the light which is emitted by said second

light source and guided by said light guide plate enters ~~said reading a~~
reading means.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the defect information includes information generated when dust or a scratch present on the original itself intercepts the light which is emitted by said second light source and guided by said light guide plate.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said light guide has ~~a first~~ said first light guide pattern formed from a plurality of grooves extending in a direction perpendicular to said first light source on a surface of said light guide, and ~~a second~~ said second light guide pattern formed by a plurality of grooves extending in a direction perpendicular to said second light source.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said first light source is arranged at an end face of said light guide along a long side, and said second light source is arranged at an end face of said light guide along a short side.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said second light source emits light in an infrared region.

7. (Original) An illumination apparatus characterized by comprising: a first light source that emits light in a visible region; a second light source that emits light in an invisible region; and a light guide plate which has said first and second light sources arranged at end faces, and has a first light guide pattern for guiding light emitted by said first light source to an entire light-emitting surface and a second light guide pattern for guiding light emitted by said second light source to the entire light-emitting surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that said light guide has ~~a first~~ said first light guide pattern formed from a plurality of grooves extending in a direction perpendicular to said first light source on a surface of said light guide, and ~~a second~~ said second light guide pattern formed by a plurality of grooves extending in a direction perpendicular to said second light source.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that said first light source is arranged at an end face of said light guide along a long side, and said second light source is arranged at an end face of said light guide along a short side.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that said second light source emits light in an infrared region.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that the illumination apparatus is used in an image reading apparatus for forming light from the original into an image on a solid-state image sensing element via an imaging optical system, and reading image information of the original.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 16, characterized in that defect information present on an optical path extending from said light guide plate to a solid-state image sensing element is read on the basis of the image signal obtained when the light from the original illuminated by the light which is emitted by said second light source and guided by said light guide plate enters said reading means.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 16, characterized in that the defect information includes information generated when dust or a scratch present on the original itself intercepts the light which is emitted by said second light source and guided by said light guide plate.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 16, characterized in that said second light source has a plurality of light-emitting apertures formed in the light-emitting element substrate in correspondence with the light-emitting elements, the light-emitting elements are so arranged as to bury light-emitting portions of the light-emitting elements in the substrate with a pattern surface facing a side opposite to a light guide surface side, and the light-emitting element substrate and an end face of said light guide are arranged in tight contact with each other.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 12,~~
~~characterized in that~~

An image reading apparatus characterized by comprising:

a first light source that emits light in a visible region;

a second light source constituted by aligning on a light-emitting element substrate a plurality of light-emitting elements for emitting light in an invisible region;

a light guide plate that guides light beams emitted by said first and second light sources through a surface to illuminate an original;

a reading device that converts light from the original illuminated by light which is emitted by said first or second light source and guided by said light guide plate into an image signal; and

a light guide surface side of the light-emitting element substrate
except for light-emitting apertures reflects light.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 16, characterized in that the light-emitting element substrate is covered with a reflecting member so as to be arranged in tight contact with said light guide.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, characterized in that an end of the reflecting member on a light-emitting surface side of said light guide is arranged near an image reading region.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 16, characterized in that said second light source emits light in an infrared region.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) ~~The apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that~~
An image illumination apparatus characterized by comprising:
a first light source that emits light in a visible region;

a second light source constituted by aligning on a light-emitting element substrate a plurality of light-emitting elements for emitting light in an invisible region;

a light guide plate which has said first and second light sources arranged at end faces, and guides incident light beams from the end faces through a surface to substantially uniformly emit light; and

a light guide surface side of the light-emitting element substrate except for light-emitting apertures reflects light.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, characterized in that the light-emitting element substrate is covered with a reflecting member so as to be arranged in tight contact with said light guide.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that an end of the reflecting member on a light-emitting surface side of said light guide is arranged near an image reading region.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, characterized in that said second light source emits light in an infrared region.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, characterized in that the illumination apparatus is used in an image reading apparatus for forming light from the original into an image on a solid-state image sensing element via an imaging optical system, and reading image information of the original.